Disney

FRANKENSTEIN

STARRING DONALD DUCK

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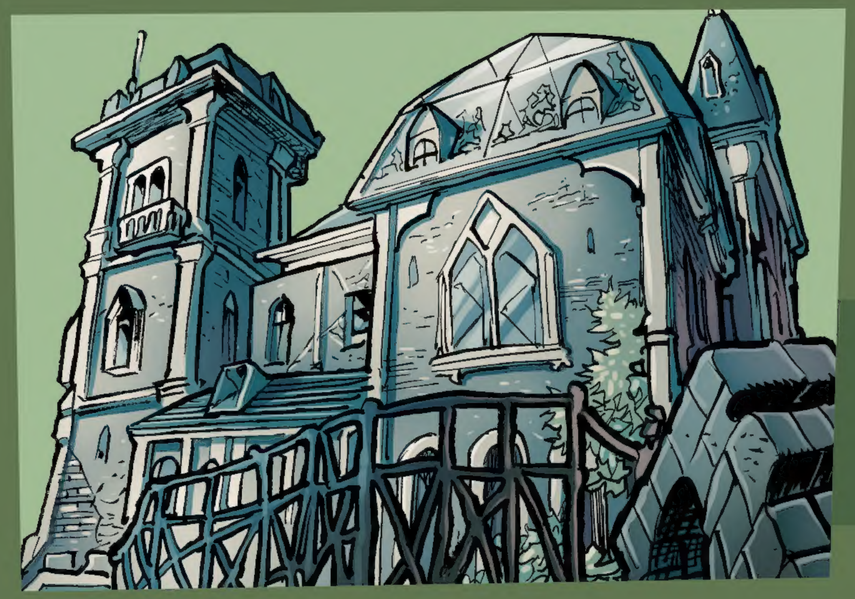

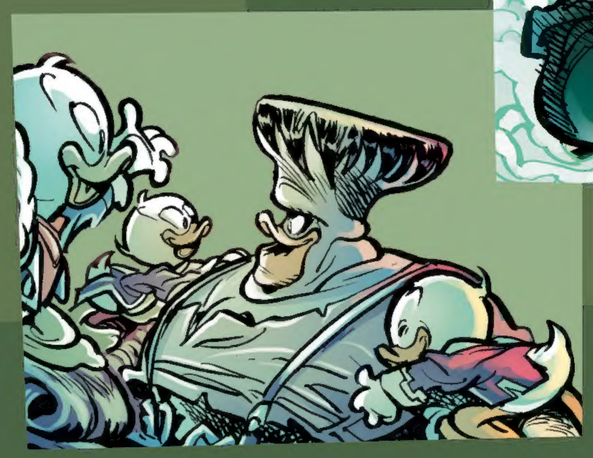

Disney

FRANKENSTEIN

STARRING

DONALD DUCK

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Based on the classic novel by
MARY SHELLEY

DARK HORSE BOOKS

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DISNEY FRANKENSTEIN, STARRING DONALD DUCK

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"DEAR GRANNY, MY SHIP IS SURROUNDED BY ICE AND FOG! BUT TODAY, IN THIS DESOLATE PLACE, TWO AMAZING THINGS HAPPENED TO ME!

"THE FIRST ONE WAS WHEN THE FOG CLEARED! IN THAT MOMENT THE SAILORS SAW..."

DUCKENSTEIN

BY MARY SHELDUCK

PART 1

"...A HUGE CREATURE ON A SLED--A FURY CHALLENGING THE NATURAL ELEMENTS, FAR FROM ANY KIND OF CIVILIZATION!

"THE SECOND CONCERNS ONE OF MY MOST RECENT DISCOVERIES: IT'S BETTER **NOT TO LICK THE ICE** IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOUR **TONGUE STUCK TO IT!**"

SLAM

CAPTAIN WALTON!

WE FOUND A *DUCK!* HE WAS FLOATING ON A BIG PIECE OF ICE!

REALLY?

IS HE LIKE THE OTHER MYSTERIOUS FELLOW WE SAW? DOES HE LOOK LIKE THE WILD INHABITANT OF SOME UNKNOWN ISLAND?

NOT AT ALL!

HE LOOKS LIKE A EUROPEAN GENTLEDUCK! BUT HIS MANNERS ARE...UM...

...NOT SO *POLITE!*

DON'T TOUCH ME! SQUAWK! I DON'T WANNA GET ON THIS OLD WRECK!

HERE'S OUR CAPTAIN, *GUS WALTON!* HE WON'T LET YOU TURN INTO AN ICICLE!

=GROAN!= I AM *NOT* TURNING INTO A...

...HUH?!

IF I COULD GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE-- *DON'T LICK THAT!*

UH...I'LL REMEMBER THAT. BUT BEFORE I GET ONBOARD, CAN YOU TELL ME *WHERE YOU'RE BOUND?*

IF MOTHER NATURE ALLOWS US, WE INTEND TO EXPLORE THE *NORTH POLE!*

WELL, IN THAT CASE...

?

"DEAR GRANNY, WE FOUND OUR GUEST DAYS AGO, BUT HE'S BEEN IN A **DELIRIUM** EVER SINCE...

"SOMETIMES HIS FACE BRIGHTENS UP, AND HE MURMURS THE NAME OF A LADY CALLED **DAISY BETH!**

"BUT IN OTHER MOMENTS, A WILD EXPRESSION APPEARS ON HIS FACE, AND HE LOOKS **CRAZY** AND OUT OF CONTROL!

"LUCKILY, TODAY HE SEEMS TO BE FEELING BETTER. HE SAID HIS NAME'S **VICTOR VON DUCKENSTEIN...**

"...AND THAT HE'S BEEN ROAMING THROUGH THESE DESOLATE LANDS IN SEARCH OF..."

...SOMETHING ...OR RATHER, **SOMEONE** WHO IS RUNNING AWAY FROM ME!

TO BE HONEST, I'M FOLLOWING SOMETHING, TOO: *A DREAM!* I WANT TO GROW *PISTACHIOS* IN THE ICE!

SO YOU'RE ALSO SUFFERING FROM *INSANITY!* LET ME TELL YOU MY STORY. PERHAPS I CAN REMOVE THE *BITTER TASTE* FROM YOUR BEAK!

NO, PLEASE! DON'T TIRE YOURSELF. AND ANYWAY, PISTACHIOS ARE NOT AT ALL BITTER, SO--

AH! YOU'RE LOOKING FOR *KNOWLEDGE! WISDOM!* BUT LISTEN TO ME... LISTEN, AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIND THE *MORAL OF MY STORY!*

BE READY TO HEAR FACTS THAT BELONG TO AN *AMAZING* WORLD, IF NOT AN *UNBELIEVABLE* ONE!

WELL... THE THING IS, WHEN SOMEONE STARTS TELLING A STORY, I--

OBVIOUSLY, I MUST BEGIN WITH THE TALE OF MY EXTREMELY INTERESTING *CHILDHOOD...*

ZZZZ

"MY PARENTS WERE FROM **GENEVA**, AND I WAS BORN IN **NAPLES**...

"I TRAVELED THE WORLD WITH THEM UNTIL THEY DECIDED IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO HAVE A MORE STABLE HOME. THEY ENTRUSTED ME TO THE CARE OF MY UNCLE, **SCROOGE VON DUCK!**

"IN GENEVA, WHILE STAYING AT HIS HOUSE AT **BELRIVE**, I MET SWEET LITTLE **DAISY BETH**, THE DAUGHTER OF MY UNCLE'S ENGLISH FRIENDS, WHO WAS ALSO IN HIS CARE...

"...AND ALSO MY COUSIN **GLADSTONE CLERVAL**, WHO QUICKLY TRIED TO COMPETE WITH ME TO WIN HER FAVOR!

"THIS WAS NOT HARD FOR HIM! HE ALWAYS HAD **GOOD LUCK**, AND I ALWAYS HAD **BAD LUCK!**

"BUT AT LEAST GLADSTONE WAS NOT AS **CREATIVE** AS I WAS. THAT'S SOMETHING I WAS BORN WITH!

"LIKE A YOUNG LEONARDO, I USED MY DRAWING TO **EXPLORE NATURE** AND MY INTELLECT TO **MOLD IT.**

"MY OBSESSIONS WERE NOT APPRECIATED BY MY UNCLE..."

I'M DOING THIS **FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.** THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING CREATIVE! IT **WON'T MAKE YOU RICH!**

RRRIPP

"BUT I WAS THE **MOST STUBBORN OF ALL DUCKS,** SO I KEPT CREATING! I INVENTED CREATURES THAT WERE **MORE REAL THAN REALITY!**

GLUE

"UNTIL I, LIKE A YOUNG **MICHELANGELO,** FOUND MYSELF ASKING..."

WHY? WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO ME?

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T ASK HER THE *RIGHT QUESTION!*

OH! *D-DAISY!*

IT LOOKS LIKE ME, BUT IT'S *MELTING!*

YEAH! THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STOP *SCULPTING IT!*

NO ONE CAN PREVENT THE WIND FROM BENDING THE TREES OR THE SUN FROM MELTING THE SNOW.

LISTEN, VICTOR! AT SOME POINT IN YOUR LIFE YOU HAVE TO STOP *CHALLENGING NATURE...*

...AND SURRENDER TO YOUR *FATE* SO IT CAN UNFOLD.

"BUT AT THAT TIME, I BELIEVED NATURE AND FATE WERE **IN MY HANDS!** I WAS READING THE WRITINGS OF **DUCK THE GREAT,** WHO WROTE ABOUT **MAGICAL EXPERIMENTS...**

"...AND FOLLOWING THE STUDIES (NEVER COMPLETED) OF **DUCKCELSUS,** AN ALCHEMIST WHO BELIEVED HE COULD **ANIMATE THE INANIMATE...**

"...BY USING COMPLEX, **COLORFUL MIXTURES** WITH AMAZING PROPERTIES...

"...ENHANCED BY POWERFUL **ELECTRIC SHOCKS!"**

BOOM

KRAKK

"THE SECRET OF CREATION! I KNEW THAT WAS WHAT I WAS MEANT TO UNVEIL...

"OBVIOUSLY, UNCLE SCROOGE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT **THAT** AS WELL..."

I'M DOING THIS **FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!** THESE BOOKS WERE WRITTEN BY BUFFOONS! THEY'RE USELESS!

BRRUPP-!!!

"BECAUSE OF THIS, I BECAME EVEN MORE **FOCUSED** ON THEM, AND I LOST SIGHT OF BEAUTIFUL DAISY, WHO WAS ALREADY **IN BLOOM!**

"I HOPED TO BE ABLE TO REPRODUCE THE **CREATIVE FORMULAS** THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO RE-CREATE DUCKCELSUS'S **EXTRAORDINARY COLORS.**

"IN THAT PURSUIT, **WILM, WOLF,** AND **WALDO** WERE OF GREAT HELP. THEY WERE THE NEWEST ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY, AND THEY WERE SO FOND OF ME THAT THEY CALLED ME **UNCLE!**

"BESIDES, THEY WERE **HAPPY** TO HELP ME CARRY OUT MY AMBITIOUS PROJECTS!"

YOU DID A GREAT JOB, BOYS! BUT... WILL IT FLY HIGH ENOUGH?

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

YEAH! IT'S WORKING!
THE FORCE OF THE ELEMENTS...
...CAPTURED BY THE INTELLECT...
...AT THE SERVICE OF CREATIV--
ARGH!

QUICK! HELP ME PUT OUT THE FIRE!

IF IT ESCAPES THE GREENHOUSE AND REACHES...

...UNCLE SCROOGE'S HOUSE...

...WH-WHERE HE KEEPS ALL HIS M-MONEY...

UH... DON'T TELL ME! YOU'RE DOING THIS *FOR MY OWN GOOD!*

NO! *FOR MINE!* IF NOTHING ELSE, I'VE LEARNED TO COLLECT *COINS* INSTEAD OF *BANKNOTES!*

OH NO! ARE YOU SERIOUS? ARE YOU REALLY SENDING ME TO THAT *AWFUL PLACE?*

INGOLSTADT! I BUILT MY CHARACTER THERE. I HOPE A STRICT, STUDIOUS ENVIRONMENT WILL HELP YOU BUILD YOURS AS WELL!

DON'T WORRY! ALL YOUR BELONGINGS ARE IN THE COACH ALREADY!

BUT... WHERE'S MY *SKETCHBOOK?* ALL MY *BEST CREATIONS* ARE INSIDE IT!

SKREEEE

FORGET ABOUT THAT! THERE'S NO ROOM FOR IMAGINATION AT A UNIVERSITY!

SPAM!

OH, VICTOR!

DAISY! *FATE* SEPARATES US!

MORE THAN FATE, I'D SAY IT'S YOUR *LOUSY LUCK!* HEH HEH!

GRRR!

PLEASE, DARLING! PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY AWAY FROM THAT GLADSTONE. HE'S A JERK!

ONLY IF YOU *PROMISE ME* YOU WON'T GET INTO TROUBLE.

UH--I'LL TRY! SAY HI TO THE BOYS WHEN YOU SEE THEM!

DON'T WORRY! THEY'LL COME OUT AS SOON AS UNCLE SCROOGE COOLS DOWN.

POOR UNCLE VICTOR!

YEAH, WHEN HE GETS BACK WE'LL BE *ANCIENT!*

AND WE'LL PROBABLY *STILL BE IN THIS TREE!*

"UNCLE SCROOGE SENT ME TO A DESOLATE HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF INGOLSTADT, WHERE I COULDN'T **DAMAGE** THE NEIGHBORING BUILDINGS.

"ON THE GLOOMY DAY OF MY ARRIVAL, I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY TO DELIVER MY LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION WHEN..."

THUD

OOF!

I APOLOGIZE, SIRS! I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT HAPPENED!

DON'T WORRY, SON! OUR MEETING WAS *INEVITABLE!*

DUCK THE GREAT

I'M SURE *PROFESSOR VON OLDUCK* WAS WALKING WITH HIS BEAK POINTING *DOWN...*

AND YOURS, *GYREMPE,* WAS DEFINITELY POINTING *UP.* HEE HEE!

BUT... DUCKCELSUS? DUCK THE GREAT? EVERY SECOND SPENT ON THESE BOOKS IS A *TOTAL WASTE!*

DUCK THE GREAT

DIDN'T ANYBODY TELL YOU THAT THESE ARE JUST *MOLDY OLD DAYDREAMS?*

AND LOOK AT THESE!

WHERE'S THE *ANATOMY?* WHERE ARE THE *BONES* AND *MUSCLES?* YOU ARE LACKING THE *BASICS!* YOU'RE LACKING *SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE!*

IN... IN MY DRAWINGS?

OF COURSE! *ART IS A SCIENCE.* DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

AND SCIENCE IS AN ART. THAT'S FOR SURE!

ARE YOU A *SELF-TAUGHT DUCK?*

UM... NO! I STUDIED IN GENEVA!

HA! *SAME DIFFERENCE!*

"AS MY TEACHERS STUFFED ME FULL OF NEW BOOKS, I STARTED FEELING A SORT OF **INNER TURMOIL.**

"I HAD A FEELING THAT MY CONFUSION COULD SOON BE **PUT IN ORDER,** BUT I DIDN'T YET KNOW **HOW TO DO IT!**

"GYREMPE TRIED TO REPLACE THE DREAMS OF **FORGOTTEN ALCHEMISTS** WITH THE DISCOVERIES OF **MODERN RESEARCHERS...**

"...AND VON OLDUCK SHOWED ME HOW TO USE **ART** AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR **SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION...**

"IN ONLY **TWO YEARS,** I LEARNED THEIR LESSONS AND MADE THEIR THEORIES MINE, UNTIL I HAD **SURPASSED THEM,** TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE!"

BAM

BAM

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO TEACH YOU, I'M AFRAID! IN FACT, I COULD USE YOUR HELP FINE-TUNING SOME OF MY STUDIES.

HERE! IN THIS ROOM I KEEP MY LATEST *INVENTION!* A MATERIAL I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE YET.

I CALL IT *CARDBOARD...**

*THE FIRST CARDBOARD BOXES WERE SOLD IN 1817.

FOR EXAMPLE, I THOUGHT I COULD USE IT FOR *PACKAGING!* I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS, BUT IT *SOUNDS GOOD.*

OR I WAS THINKING THAT... *BLAH BLAH...*

"BUT WHAT WAS ONLY A VAGUE DISCOVERY FOR AN **AVERAGE BRILLIANT MIND** WAS FOR ME...AN **ILLUMINATION!**

"WHAT MY ESTEEMED TEACHERS DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT I HAD NEVER FORGOTTEN ABOUT DUCKCELSUS'S INCOMPLETE PROJECTS...

*"...AND IN FACT, I HAD ACTUALLY USED MY NEW EXPERTISE TO **COMPLETE** AND **IMPROVE THEM!**"*

DID YOU DISCOVER... *THE SECRET OF ANIMATION?*

THAT'S RIGHT! I SEE YOUR BRAIN *WAKES UP* IN BETWEEN ONE NAP AND THE NEXT.

BUT DON'T ASK ME TO REVEAL MY *SECRET!* YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND THE *COMPLEX THOUGHTS* THAT BROUGHT ME THERE!

YOU ONLY NEED TO KNOW THAT, AFTER PRODUCING SOME *MIRACULOUS DYES,* I FOUND OUT CARDBOARD WAS THE PERFECT *MATERIAL* TO USE THEM ON!

"AN EXTREMELY MALLEABLE **MATERIAL** WHICH COULD COMPLETELY **ABSORB** MY EXTRAORDINARY COLORS!"

RUMBLE

"I KNEW WHAT GYREMPE THOUGHT OF DUCKCELSUS, SO I DECIDED I'D TELL HIM WHAT I WAS UP TO ONLY AFTER I'D SUCCEEDED!"

KRAAK

"I FOLLOWED HIM AND DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS PROTECTIVE OF HIS INVENTIONS. HE BURIED HIS SCRAP MATERIALS IN A SECRET PLACE.

"THEREFORE, ONE NIGHT, UNDER A GLOOMY SKY **FILLED WITH SINISTER OMENS...**

"...I BROUGHT A PILE OF **FLAWED MATERIALS** BACK INTO THE LIGHT!"

KRAAK

"I SPENT MANY HOURS **SCULPTING** AND **MOLDING** THAT MATERIAL TO GIVE IT SHAPE AND VOLUME, BUT WHEN I WAS FINISHED..."

NO, NO! WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

WHOOOOOSHHHH

THE *FEATURES*... THEY'RE *HUGE!* AND FINDING *XXXL CLOTHES* AND *LEAD BOOTS* WAS A NIGHTMARE!

AS FOR THE *COLORS*, I NEED TO MAKE THEM *PERMANENT!* THEY NEED TO BE *STIMULATED*, AND--

KRAK

IDEA! I WILL *GALVANIZE* THEM DIRECTLY TO THE *CREATURE*.

KRAK

YEAH! THAT'S IT!

FRRZZ

THE ENERGY IS AT ITS PEAK! I CAN WAIT NO LONGER!

IT'S TIME TO REVEAL...

...THE SECRET OF..

...ANIMATION!

KRAAAAKTZZ

BZZZZ

ZZZ

COME ON! ARE YOU NOT *ANIMATED?* SAY SOMETHING! MAKE A NOISE! EVEN A *SQUAWK* OR A *SQUEAK!*

AAAA

MY UNCLE WAS RIGHT! AND GLADSTONE TOO! I'M NOT A GENIUS--I'M A *FEATHERED DISASTER!*

*"AH, WHAT A BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT! I WENT OUT, LEAVING BEHIND MY **INVENTION** AND THE **DIARY** WHERE I HAD TAKEN NOTES ABOUT THE PROJECT AND MY PROGRESS!*

"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!"

PUP

UHM?

GROWL?

FINE, I'LL GO BACK HOME! I'M SURE UNCLE SCROOGE WILL FORCE ME TO REPAY HIM FOR MY WASTED EDUCATION BY *POLISHING ALL HIS COINS!*

WOWL!

I'LL BUILD A *HAMMOCK*, AND I'LL CHANGE FROM THE MOST STUBBORN OF ALL DUCKS INTO THE *LAZIEST OF ALL DUCKS!* =SIGH!=

CREAK-K-K

G-GROWL!

CRASH

?

HUH?

GROWL?

A NOISE! WHAT...

?

AAAK

AHHHH!

GROWL!

"IT WAS A FATAL MOMENT! BY INSTINCT I SCREAMED, BUT I **SCARED** THAT HUGE, CLUMSY CREATURE...

"...THAT COULDN'T YET STAND ON ITS FEET..."

KRAK

G-GRO--

K

KRAAAAAK

--OOOWL!

OH, NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

"I RAN DOWN THE STAIRS...

"...SURE THAT **NO ONE** COULD SURVIVE SUCH A FALL!

"BUT WHEN I GOT OUTSIDE..."

?

THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE! WAS I *DREAMING?*

"AND, AS IN A DREAM, I RUSHED OUT TO LOOK FOR IT!

"I REALIZED I HADN'T GIVEN IT A **NAME**, BUT I REMEMBERED THE **WEIRD SOUND** THAT HAD COME OUT OF ITS MOUTH..."

G-GROWL! WHERE ARE YOU, GROWL?

"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I ROAMED UNDER THE HEAVY RAIN IN THE EMPTY ALLEYS OF INGOLSTADT...

"...WALKING ALONG DAMP STREETS, CROSSING SILENT SQUARES, AND ENTERING THE DARKEST ALLEYS, UNTIL..."

GROOOOWL!

GRROWLLL

GROWL! IS THAT YOU?

AH! I DO APOLOGIZE. I'M AFRAID MY *STOMACH* IS GRUMBLING! I DIDN'T HAVE A *SNACK* DURING MY JOURNEY!

GASP! GLADSTONE?

THE COACH LEFT ME HERE UNDER THIS HIDEOUS *STATUE*, AND I COULDN'T FIND MY WAY. I AM SO *LUCKY* TO HAVE RUN INTO YOU!

NOW, TAKE ME TO YOUR HOUSE!

NO! I CAN'T!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! *I NEED TO FIND HIM!* HE'S OUTSIDE, IN THE *RAIN!*

COME OVER HERE AND TAKE SHELTER! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT THIS IS MORE THAN JUST RAIN. IT'S A *DOWNPOUR!*

?

"A DOWNPOUR! OF COURSE! I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THE WISE WORDS OF DAISY BETH..."

NO ONE CAN PREVENT THE WIND FROM BENDING THE TREES OR THE SUN FROM MELTING THE SNOW!

"IN THAT MOMENT, I REALIZED THAT GROWL WAS MADE OF A VERY FLEXIBLE BUT **FRAGILE** MATERIAL!

"IT HAD PROBABLY **MELTED** UNDER THE HEAVY RAIN. THAT WAS WHY I COULDN'T FIND IT!

"THAT REALIZATION, COMBINED WITH MY WEARINESS, MADE ME FALL INTO A **FEVERISH STATE!**

"LATER, WHEN I WOKE UP IN MY BED, I FOUND THAT A **WHITE LOCK** HAD **APPEARED** IN MY HAIR!

"OH, DAISY! MY SWEET DAISY BETH! I HAD WASTED SO MUCH TIME ON BOOKS, WITHOUT TELLING HER HOW I FELT!

"SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD EASE THE FRUSTRATION OF MY **FAILURE!** THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD RESTORE MY HAPPINESS!

"WHEN THE FEVER HAD PASSED, I DECIDED TO QUIT MY **USELESS STUDIES...**

"...AND GO BACK HOME TO **PROPOSE TO HER!"**

THERE YOU ARE, GLADSTONE! CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?

APPARENTLY, *SAVING YOU!* A LITTLE RECOGNITION WOULDN'T HURT!

I WOULD THANK YOU IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A SATISFIED *SMIRK* ON YOUR FACE. SO?

SO, THE TRUTH IS THAT UNCLE SCROOGE ASKED ME TO COME HERE TO TELL YOU THE NEWS!

HE HAS CONSENTED TO AN *ENGAGEMENT* BETWEEN ME AND DAISY BETH! SOON, *WE'LL BE MARRIED!*

DID YOU HEAR ME, VICTOR?

LISTEN, VICTOR. AT SOME POINT IN YOUR LIFE YOU HAVE TO STOP ***CHALLENGING NATURE...***

...AND SURRENDER TO YOUR **FATE** *SO IT CAN UNFOLD.*

BOO-HOOOO! WHAT A CRUEL FATE! WHAT A SAD, SAD STORY! BOO-HOO-HWAAH!

?

NOW I KNOW WHY YOU CHOSE *EXILE IN A DESOLATE, ICY LAND!* YOU'RE THE *UNLUCKIEST DUCK* I'VE EVER MET!

IN A SINGLE DAY, ALL YOUR DREAMS *MELTED AWAY,* AND YOUR BELOVED *DUMPED YOU! BOO-HOO-HOOOO!*

HOLD ON A SEC, CAPTAIN WALTON! WHAT EXILE? THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY!

=SNIFF!= REALLY?

YOU MUST KNOW THAT THIS PARTICULAR STORY CAN BE TOLD FROM DIFFERENT *POINTS OF VIEW!*

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT OTHER POINT OF VIEW COULD THERE BE, APART FROM YOURS?

WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, *GROWL'S!*

WHAT? DIDN'T HE...?

MELT? LIQUEFY? DISINTEGRATE? NOT AT ALL! HE TOLD ME *HIMSELF* ABOUT HIS ADVENTURE!

"YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN I RELAY HIS ***WORDS*** *TO YOU! WHAT UNTIL NOW SEEMED ONLY* ***INCREDIBLE*** *WILL SEEM...* ***IMPOSSIBLE!"***

END OF PART 1

"I CAN BARELY REMEMBER THE ORIGINS OF MY **EXISTENCE!** BUT I REMEMBER A **BLINDING LIGHT...**

"...FOLLOWED BY A FEELING OF **CONFUSION** AND **CHAOS.** AND THEN..."

DUCKENSTEIN

BY MARY SHELDUCK

PART 2

"...A KIND OF **PRIDE.** WELL, JUDGING BY THE **HANDS** I SAW, I KNEW I HAD TO BE A **HANDSOME GUY!"**

HEE HEE! A HANDSOME GUY? DID THAT THING, *GROWL*, REALLY *SAY THAT?*

WORD FOR WORD! BUT AT A CERTAIN *POINT IN THE STORY.* I WILL GET TO THAT LATER, CAPTAIN WALTON!

AT THE MOMENT I ONLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T KEEP *INTERRUPTING* ME AND MAKING FUN OF GROWL!

UM...I DO APOLOGIZE, DR. DUCKENSTEIN!

YOU REALLY HAVE TO UNDERSTAND *HIS FEELINGS* AND SEE THINGS *FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW.* DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

ONLY IF YOU IMAGINE THAT *MY WORDS* ARE COMING OUT OF *HIS MOUTH* WILL YOU UNDERSTAND...

...WHAT DISTORTED REASONING PUSHED HIM TO MAKE SUCH *HORRIBLE DECISIONS...*

"WHERE WAS I? OH, YEAH...THE **HANDS!** I HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM BEFORE!

"WELL, TO BE HONEST, I'D NEVER SEEN **ANYTHING AT ALL!** I DIDN'T KNOW THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE WHAT I WAS FEELING, BUT I WAS **CURIOUS...**

"...AND ALSO EASILY **STARTLED.** THAT'S WHY I GOT SCARED WHEN I SAW THE FIRST **FLASH OF LIGHTNING!**

"I REMEMBER THAT SOME VIALS BROKE **WITHOUT MAKING ANY NOISE!"**

"THAT CREATURE ON THE PAGES OF THAT **JOURNAL!** WHAT WAS IT? AND WHY WAS I SO **FASCINATED** BY IT?

"ALL OF THE CRUMBS OF MY THOUGHTS WERE SWEPT AWAY BY ANOTHER **FLASH OF LIGHTNING...**

"I SAW A **BIG KITE** FLYING FREELY ACROSS THE SKY!

"SUDDENLY, A **DEMENTED DUCK** APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE! HE OPENED HIS BILL WIDE, **BUT NO SOUND CAME OUT!**

"I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I FOUND MYSELF OUTSIDE IN THE RAIN...

"...UNDER A SHOWER OF **WATER AND GLASS!**

"I DIDN'T YET KNOW THAT I HARDLY WEIGHED ANYTHING, THAT I WAS MADE OF THE **STUFF DREAMS ARE MADE OF...**

"...AND I WAS UNAWARE THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN SOLVED BY GIVING ME A PAIR OF HEAVY **LEAD BOOTS!**

"BUT IT SEEMS THEY WEREN'T HEAVY **ENOUGH,** BECAUSE WHEN I SEIZED THE END OF A **ROPE** THAT WAS ABOVE ME...

"...I STARTED TO **FLY,** CARRIED BY THE **KITE** I HAD SEEN.

"I TWIRLED ABOVE THE CITY, BOUND FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE, **FAR FROM THE STORM** AND THAT EXCITING NIGHT!

"WHEN I REGAINED MY SENSES AND OPENED MY EYES, I WAS ON A TREE BRANCH!

"I HEARD SOMETHING BUZZING AROUND MY HEAD...A FARAWAY, **MUFFLED** SOUND!

"IT SEEMED THAT MY CREATOR, LIKE A CARING FATHER, HAD GIVEN ME...

"...SPECIAL **EARPLUGS** TO AVOID ANY KIND OF SHOCK WHEN I WOKE UP!"

pop

CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP!

SQUEAK!

WOOSH

"THE TWITTERS OF BIRDS, THE SQUIRRELS' SQUEAKS, THE RUSTLE OF THE LEAVES...THE SOUNDS OF NATURE **INTOXICATED ME!**

"I TRIED TO **IMITATE** THE JOYFUL SOUNDS THAT WERE COMING OUT OF THOSE LITTLE ANIMALS' MOUTHS..."

AHEM!

GROOOAN

"...BUT ALTHOUGH, IN MY OPINION, MY SOUNDS WERE **PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL** TO THEIRS...

"...IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT I BEGAN TO **UNDERSTAND**...

"...THAT I WAS NOT **LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!**

"WHEREVER I WENT, WHATEVER CREATURE I MET..."

?

"...THE RESULT WAS ALWAYS **THE SAME!**"

AAAH!

NEIGH!

"WHAT COULD IT BE? WAS IT MY **SCENT?**"

SNIFF

"OR MY **APPEARANCE?**"

"**NAH, IMPOSSIBLE!** I LOOKED JUST LIKE THE **HANDSOME GUY** IN THE JOURNAL I WAS CARRYING WITH ME!"

WOW!

"I WANDERED UNTIL I REACHED A CHARMING FARM ON A HILL!"

SCRAM

SCRAM

SCRAM

DYNAMITE DE BLACEY

"THE YARD WAS FULL OF **SIGNS!** SIGNS OF **WELCOME,** I THOUGHT..."

MY DOG DON'T BITE... BUT I DO!

WOOF! WOOF!

STOP! IF YOU MOVE, I'LL SHOOT! N'EST-CE PAS?

BLAM

"WHO WAS THAT FELLOW? WHAT WERE THOSE **THREATENING SOUNDS** HE WAS MAKING?"

BOOM

BAM

"IN FEAR, I HID IN HIS **WOODSHED!**"

BLAM!

WHO ARE *TOI?* WHAT ARE YOU DOING, *HAH?* RÉPONDS-*MOI!* UN! DEUX! *TROIS!*

"I REALIZED THAT, FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, **HE HADN'T SEEN ME!**"

HMPH! *VOLTAIRE!* YOUR NOSE IS *NOT* WHAT IT USED TO BE!

SNIFF!

"EXAMINING MY SHELTER, I NOTICED THAT I COULD SEE INTO THE HOUSE THROUGH SOME OF THE **CRACKS!**"

THE *SOUPE* IS ALMOST *PRÊTE.* SET THE TABLE, *MON AMI!*

"LATER I FOUND OUT THAT, DESPITE HIS APPEARANCE, THE MAN WAS AN **IMPOVERISHED FRENCH ARISTOCRAT...**"

OH, NO! WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON *BAGUETTES!*

"...WHO'D DECIDED TO MOVE TO THE COUNTRY AND DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO **FARMING!**"

OF COURSE THEY'LL *GROW.* THEY'RE MADE OF *WHEAT,* AREN'T THEY?

WOOF!

"EVERY EVENING HE TRIED TO STUDY HIS NEW LANGUAGE WITH THE HELP OF **PICTURE BOOKS!**"

B-BA... **BANUA!**

=SIGH!=

"BY MATCHING HIS SOUNDS WITH THE WORDS WRITTEN ON THOSE PAGES, I LEARNED TO **READ** AND **SPEAK!**"

BANAAANA!

WOOF!

REALLY? I GOT IT RIGHT? MERCI, MON AMI!

"SOON I DECIDED TO THANK HIM FOR HIS (UNINTENTIONAL) LESSONS BY HELPING HIM WITH SOME **SMALL TASKS!**"

PARBLEU! WHEN DID I CUT ALL THIS *FIREWOOD?*

OOH LA LA! WHEN DID I PLOW THIS *FIELD?*

HEY! WHEN DID I EAT ALL THE *BAGUETTES?*

BAH! WHAT'S THE POINT OF READING ALL THESE BOOKS IF I KEEP FORGETTING EVERYTHING? *N'EST-CE PAS?*

WOOF!

ABC

ALL THESE BOOKS I BORROWED *NE SONT PAS NÉCESSAIRES!* THEY'RE **USELESS!**

THUMP

"THE FEATHRIAD, THE SORROWS OF YOUNG SQUAWKER...

THE SORROWS OF YOUNG SQUAWKER

THE FEATHRIAD

*"...THE **WHOLE WORLD** WAS INSIDE THOSE WONDERFUL BOOKS!*

*"I **DEVOURED** THEM GREEDILY, LEARNING ALL ABOUT THE BEAUTY AND TURMOIL OF THE **SOUL!***

*"**FALL WENT BY.** THE LEAVES TURNED YELLOW, AND I WAS STILL IN MY SHELTER!*

"AT THAT POINT, MY INTELLECT HAD DEFINITELY **EVOLVED!** BUT AS I WAS READING IN THE DARK..."

HMM...

"...I STARTED TO DEVELOP SOME **VISION PROBLEMS!**"

=YAWN!= VOLTAIRE, DO YOU KNOW WHERE MY *GLASSES* ARE...

I DO APOLOGIZE! I'VE BORROWED THEM, BUT BY THE *GRADATION* OF YOUR LENSES, I ASSUME YOU ARE *NEARSIGHTED*, NOT *FARSIGHTED* LIKE ME.

=GASP!=

WHO ARE *TOI*? I'LL CALL THE *LAW*! I WON'T COUNT TO *TROIS*!

BLAM

"I STARTED ROAMING AGAIN, BUT I STILL HAD THE **SAME EFFECT** ON EVERYONE!"

UM... EXCUSE ME! I NEED SOME INFORMATION...

?

"TRYING TO EXPLAIN **WHAT I WAS** SEEMED TOTALLY USELESS, AS I DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF!"

HEEELP!

"THEN I REMEMBERED THE **JOURNAL** I HAD TAKEN FROM THE LAB. I REALIZED THAT I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO **READ IT!**

"SO THAT **FASCINATING** CREATURE WAS SIMPLY **ME!** AND THE NOTES WERE WRITTEN BY MY MYSTERIOUS **CREATOR!**

"ON THOSE PAGES WAS HIS ENTIRE **STORY!** THE BEAUTIFUL DAISY, THE LUCKY GLADSTONE, THE STRICT UNCLE SCROOGE, THE EXPERIMENTS, THE JOURNEY TO INGOLSTADT...

"...AND THE FACT THAT IN BELRIVE HE HAD LEFT HIS...**BEST CREATIONS!"**

OF COURSE! HE WAS REFERRING TO YOUR *OLD DRAWINGS*--HIDDEN BY VON DUCK!

EXACTLY!

TRY TO IMAGINE YOU ARE *ALONE* IN THE WORLD, BUT THEN YOU DISCOVER THAT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, THERE COULD BE OTHER CREATURES *LIKE YOU!*

CHOMP

OH! SORRY! ALL THIS *SUSPENSE* IS MAKING ME *HUNGRY!* BUT KEEP ON TELLING YOUR STORY...

=GRUNT!= OKAY, THEN...

I THINK WE'D BETTER RESUME THE STORY--

FROM THE CREATURE'S POINT OF VIEW? =CHOMP!= OR FROM YOURS?

FROM NEITHER! THIS TIME, I'LL TELL THE COLD, HARD FACTS AS THEY ARE!

"AS YOU REMEMBER, I WAS CONVINCED I WAS A **FAILURE!** BECAUSE OF MY EXPERIMENT AND ALSO BECAUSE OF DAISY BETH, WHO WAS NOW GLADSTONE'S **FIANCÉE...**"

COME ON, *UNCLE!* SINCE YOU CAME BACK, YOU'VE BEEN SO *LAZY!*

I PROMISED THAT ONCE BACK IN *BELRIVE*, I WOULD BECOME THE *LAZIEST OF ALL DUCKS*--- AND I'M KEEPING *MY WORD!*

BUT YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF!

WHERE'S THE *MOST STUBBORN OF ALL DUCKS?* WHERE'S THE *INDOMITABLE INVENTOR?*

HE SURRENDERED TO NATURE AND HIS FATE! NOW BE QUIET, OR I'LL SHOW YOU THE MOST AMAZING INVENTION OF OUR AGE: THE *CARPET BEATER!*

WILM! WOLF! WALDO!

OH! HI, DAISY BETH!

SO, DID YOU TALK TO HIM? DID HE MENTION ME? HOW IS HE?

AS USUAL! HE SENDS YOU HIS BEST WISHES!

AND HE WONDERS HOW YOU COULD *ACCEPT* GLADSTONE'S PROPOSAL!

WALDO!

NO! YOUR BROTHER IS RIGHT! I HOPED THIS DECISION WOULD AWAKE VICTOR'S SOUL... THAT IT WOULD CONVINCE HIM TO *REVEAL HIS FEELINGS...*

...BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG! *=SIGH!=* BEFORE THE CEREMONY, REMEMBER TO CHANGE INTO YOUR ***NEW SUITS!***

YUCK!

I'D DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF WEARING THAT *AWFUL SUIT!* IT'S COVERED IN *LACE* AND *RUFFLES!*

IT'S ALL UNCLE VICTOR'S FAULT! IF ONLY HE TOLD DAISY HOW HE FELT, SHE WOULD CANCEL THE WEDDING!

YEAH... BUT AFTER ALL, HE'S THE *MOST STUBBORN OF ALL DUCKS!*

HE SAYS HE'S *LOST HIS INSPIRATION!* HE'S *APATHETIC* AND *LAZY!* ALL HE DOES IS SLEEP AND POLISH *UNCLE SCROOGE'S COINS.*

SPEAKING OF UNCLE SCROOGE, HE SEEMS PRETTY *HAPPY!* LOOK AT HIM SUPERVISING THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE *BANQUET!*

THE *STALE BISCUITS* SHOULD BE PLACED AT THE CENTER OF THE TABLE! AND SERVE BOTTOMLESS *TAP WATER!*

BAH! OUR ONLY CHOICE IS...

...TO WEAR LACE...

...AND RUFFLES!

YUCK AND DOUBLE YUCK!

A *DOLL* WOULD HAVE LESS RUFFLES!

NOW I KNOW HOW A *DOILY* FEELS!

HEY! WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE IN *UNCLE SCROOGE'S OFFICE!*

THUD

RUSTLE

B-BUT WHAT...

!

AAAHHH...!

:GASP!:

IT'S THE BOYS!

THOSE *PESTS* MUST BE UP TO SOMETHING AS USUAL!

UM... DAISY!

VICTOR...

UNCLE, DID YOU HEAR THOSE SCREAMS?

YES! THEY WERE COMING FROM *MY OFFICE*. I TOLD WILM, WOLF, AND WALDO NOT TO GO IN THERE, BUT--

!

:GASP!:

PHEW! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU! BUT YOU ARE SAFE!

WAIT! THESE ARE MY OLD DRAWINGS. SOMEONE RIPPED THEM UP!

AND THESE...

...ARE WILM, WOLF, AND WALDO'S LACE COLLARS!

WHO COULD HAVE DONE ALL THIS?

"AT THAT VERY MOMENT I HEARD IT! IT WAS COMING FROM THE FOREST!"

GRRROWLL

"AN **INHUMAN** SOUND I KNEW ALL TOO WELL..."

GRROWLL

=GASP!= SO THE LITTLE NEPHEWS...*GROWL*...

YEAH! ALL THE WONDER I FELT WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS STILL ALIVE VANISHED AT ONCE WHEN I STARTED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE COULD HAVE *DONE!*

BUT...BUT THAT'S *NOT POSSIBLE!* YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD ME THE STORY FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW!

I THOUGHT HE WAS *FUNNY, NICE, AND POLITE...*

...BUT TERRIBLY *LONELY!*

THINK ABOUT IT! HE READ MY JOURNAL, FOUND OUT THERE COULD BE SOMEONE ELSE *LIKE HIM,* WALKED FOR DAYS AND DAYS...

...AND THEN DISCOVERED THAT THE "BEST CREATIONS" WERE ACTUALLY A CHILD'S SKETCHES. IF IT WAS ME, *I WOULD HAVE BEEN FURIOUS!*

"IN BRIEF, THE CEREMONY WAS POSTPONED, AND A **SEARCH PARTY** WAS FORMED..."

WIIILM!

WOOOLF!

WAAALDO!

LET'S SPLIT UP! I'LL GO THIS WAY!

AND I'LL GO THAT WAY!

WHERE ARE YOU, BOYS? IT'S UNCLE VICTOR!

VICTOR VON DUCKENSTEIN, I SUPPOSE!

?

SO, THAT *DEMENTED DUCK* I SAW IN THE LAB WAS YOU...*MY CREATOR!*

B-BUT... *YOU CAN SPEAK!*

YES! YOU SHOULD HEAR ME *SING.* I HAVE *PERFECT PITCH!*

*"THEN HE TOLD ME **EVERYTHING!** HE HAD BEEN TRAVELING WHILE KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT, LOOKING FOR THE PLACES I DESCRIBED IN MY JOURNAL!*

"I LISTENED TO HIM, TRYING TO MEMORIZE EVERY SINGLE WORD, UNTIL HE SAID..."

I'VE GOT THE THREE DUCKLINGS. THEY'RE IN A SAFE PLACE!

YOU *KIDNAPPED* THEM? WHY?

IT'S VERY SIMPLE! I WANT YOU TO START *CREATING* AGAIN!

I WANT YOU TO MAKE OTHER CREATURES *LIKE ME!* CREATURES WHO WON'T RUN AWAY WHEN THEY SEE ME!

WHAAAT? THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION. I HAVE RUN OUT OF *MOTIVATION,* DESIRE, ENTHUSIASM--

AREN'T YOU HAPPY YOUR EXPERIMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL?

SURE! BUT I CAN'T *CREATE* ON COMMAND! AND ANYWAY, I'M JUST A *SHADOW* OF THE DUCK I USED TO BE!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN...

NO! WAIT!

"AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE MIST, LIKE A GHOST!"

COME BACK! LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, VICTOR? ARE YOU ANGRY WITH SOMEONE?

DAISY!

OH, DAISY! I'M AFRAID I'VE MADE A *HUGE MISTAKE!* YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT I...

CAN YOU HEAR WHAT HE'S TELLING HER?

NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FROM HERE!

I IMAGINE HE'S TELLING HER THE WHOLE STORY!

LET'S GET COMFORTABLE THEN. UNCLE VICTOR LOVES *TELLING STORIES.*

USUALLY HE STARTS FROM THE *VERY BEGINNING,* WITH HIS *CHILDHOOD...*

SPEAKING OF WHICH, CAPTAIN WALTON. DID I TELL YOU I WAS BORN IN *NAPLES?*

UM... YEAH. TELL ME, DR. DUCKENSTEIN, WERE THE THREE DUCKLINGS *WELL?*

WOOSH

OH, SURE! THEY HAD A *PERFECT PLAN!*

ESKSH

IN FACT, WILM, WOLF, AND WALDO HAD SET THE WHOLE THING UP *THEMSELVES!*

SO, IN A NUTSHELL, THAT CREATURE WASN'T...

...EVIL? OF COURSE HE WASN'T!

BUT YOU SAID HE MADE *HORRIBLE DECISIONS.*

YEAH. *THAT'S THE TRUTH!*

"LISTEN TO THE REST, AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND..."

I DON'T KNOW, BOYS. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?

ARE YOU JOKING? IN ONE SWOOP, WE KEPT DAISY FROM...

...MARRYING THAT AWFUL GLADSTONE, AND WE GAVE UNCLE VICTOR A REASON TO *WAKE UP!*

OKAY, BUT HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO STAY UP HERE?

I DON'T KNOW. ONCE WE HAD TO EAT BERRIES FOR A *WHOLE WEEK!*

THE BRANCH WILL HOLD US! WE'RE SMALL, AND YOU'RE *SO LIGHT!*

AND SO *NICE!*

AND SO *GOOD!*

BUT THIS SHAM IS MAKING ME SEEM *SO EVIL!* DID YOU REALLY NEED TO TEAR UP THOSE *DRAWINGS?*

SURE! TO MAKE THE KIDNAPPING MORE *REALISTIC!*

AND WRECKING OUR *COLLARS* WAS A REAL PLEASURE!

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU FELT WHEN WE FOUND YOU IN UNCLE SCROOGE'S OFFICE?

"YOU WERE SCARED, SAD, DESPERATE!

"YOU HAD JUST FOUND OUT THAT, APART FROM YOU, UNCLE VICTOR HAD NEVER **ANIMATED** ANY OTHER CREATURE!"

NOW, THANKS TO US, YOU CAN START *HOPING* AGAIN!

WE KNOW OUR UNCLE. HE'LL ONLY CHANGE HIS MIND IF HE HAS A *GOOD REASON!*

YOU'LL SEE! HE'LL START *CREATING* AGAIN! THEN WE CAN CLIMB DOWN FROM THIS TREE.

SO...THE BOYS WERE TAKEN BY A...*CREATURE MADE OF PAPER?*

ACTUALLY, I'D SAY HE'S A *HUGE, MULTILAYERED, RECYCLED, MOLDED, AND ANIMATED CREATURE MADE OF PAPER!*

THIS ALL SEEMS SO UNBELIEVABLE!

DAISY! IF ANYONE WILL BELIEVE ME, IT'S YOU!

YOU'RE WRONG, VICTOR! THIS TIME, *I BELIEVE YOU TOO!*

HUH?! UNCLE SCROOGE?

I'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT *NOTHING GOOD* WOULD COME OF YOUR CREATIVITY!

WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE! I'LL *ERASE* YOUR MISTAKES...

"...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!"

THIS WAY! COME HERE WITH THOSE *TORCHES!*

PITCHFORKS! WE NEED MORE PITCHFORKS!

I BROUGHT AN *ERASER.* WHAT DO WE NEED TO *ERASE?*

A *DRAWING*-- AN *IDEA*--AN *ABOMINATION!* LOOK EVERYWHERE!

=GASP!= THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND. I'D BETTER TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR FAMILY RIGHT AWAY!

RELAX! THE FOREST IS HUGE!

YEAH! TO FIND US UP HERE, THEY'D HAVE TO BE REALLY *LUCKY!*

ADMIT IT! YOU PLANNED THIS WHOLE THING TO *SABOTAGE* MY WEDDING!

WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING, GLADSTONE?

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! THERE IS NO *MONSTER*, NO *CREATURE!* YOU DON'T--

WHAK

WHIRD

IT'S TRUE! *YOU REALLY ARE LUCKY!*

ARGH! THE MONSTER! THE CREATURE! IT'S HERE!

?

IN THAT VERY MOMENT, THE CREATURE MADE ITS *HORRIBLE DECISION...*

...WHICH WAS... *RUNNING AWAY* FROM EVERYONE... AS FAR AS POSSIBLE...

...CROSSING MOUNTAINS AND GLACIERS, CONTINENTS AND SEAS... *FAR FROM EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING!*

WHAT ELSE COULD HE DO?

WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, HE COULD HAVE WAITED FOR THE KIDS TO CLIMB DOWN FROM THAT TREE AND TELL US THE *TRUTH--*

:GULP!: GROWL! IS THAT YOU?

:GASP!:

YES, IT'S ME! I NOTICED YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME BACK NEAR THE *ORKNEY ISLANDS.* HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

WELL, YOUR *BOOTS* LEAVE *UNMISTAKABLE PRINTS.* IT WASN'T DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW THEM!

HUH, MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LET THE *WIND* BLOW ME AWAY.

ANYWAY, YOUR PRESENCE WAS KEEPING ME *COMPANY.* SO WHEN I REALIZED YOU WEREN'T THERE ANYMORE...

YOU CAME BACK TO CHECK ON ME!

UNFORTUNATELY, MY SLED DOGS RAN AWAY, BUT CAPTAIN WALTON SAVED ME!

UM... HIYA!

GOOD! HE'LL BE THE WITNESS OF THE *FINAL ACT* OF THIS STORY. I'M TIRED OF *RUNNING.* YOU ARE MY CREATOR, SO IT'S YOU WHO MUST... *ERASE ME!*

HA HA! YOU'RE SUCH A *DRAMA KING!* NOBODY WANTS TO ERASE YOU. QUITE THE OPPOSITE! *EVERYBODY WANTS TO SEE YOU!*

?

THE *KIDS*, MY FRIEND! YOU MUST KNOW THAT KIDS LOVE *ANIMATED CREATURES!*

ESPECIALLY WILM, WOLF, AND WALDO. THEY KEEP ASKING ABOUT YOU, AND--

WAIT! YOU SAID "CREATURES," *PLURAL!* ARE THERE OTHERS LIKE ME?

SURE! IF YOU HAD STOPPED EARLIER, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. AFTER YOUR ESCAPE, I FOUND THE COURAGE TO *DECLARE MY LOVE* TO DAISY BETH...

WHAK

...SO SHE LEFT GLADSTONE-- AND I SUDDENLY FOUND MY *CREATIVE IMPULSE* AGAIN! THEN, WITH THE HELP OF MY FORMER PROFESSOR, *GYREMPE*...

...I *DREW* AND THEN *ANIMATED*... WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU. MAY I USE YOUR PEN AND INK, CAPTAIN WALTON?

SURE! BUT LEAVE SOME INK SO I CAN RECORD THE END OF THIS AMAZING STORY!

"DEAR GRANNY! WHAT DUCKENSTEIN CREATED WAS A **WONDERFUL LAND,** A PLACE FULL OF **AMAZING CREATURES, TOTALLY INVENTED BY HIM!**

"THE POINT IS, I DIDN'T WITNESS THE **END** OF GROWL, BUT HIS **NEW BEGINNING**...SOMETHING THAT WILL ALSO CHANGE OUR LIVES FOREVER!

"THAT DUCK ONCE ASKED ME TO TRY TO FIND THE **MORAL OF HIS STORY,** AND I THINK I'VE FOUND IT...

"NEVER EMPTY THE CUPBOARD BEFORE A ROUND-TRIP VOYAGE, **NEVER JUDGE PEOPLE** BY THEIR APPEARANCE...

"...AND ABOVE ALL, **NEVER STOP LOOKING AT THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD!"**

THE END

ABOUT THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR

MARY SHELLEY

(1797–1851)

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was an English writer in the 19th century. She is best known for her gothic horror novel, *Frankenstein*.

Mary Shelley was born Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin on August 30, 1797, in London, England. Her father, William Godwin, was a political writer. Her mother was feminist author Mary Wollstonecraft. Her mother passed away shortly after giving birth. When her father remarried, her life became increasingly challenging.

Though she did not have a formal education, she enjoyed reading and spent much of her time in her father's library. Her favorite place was by her mother's grave in the churchyard where she would read and write. She used writing as a creative outlet for her difficult family life.

In 1816, Mary Godwin married poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Later that year, the Shelleys, along with a group of friends, took part in a horror writing competition. This was the inception of what would be the infamous *Frankenstein*.

In 1818, *Frankenstein* was published anonymously, and it became a success. Only after the second edition was printed, in 1823, was Shelley's name revealed as the author.

In 1819, the Shelleys had a son named Percy Florence. In 1822, Percy Bysshe Shelley passed away in a sailing accident. After this life-changing incident, Shelley devoted herself to writing, raising her son, and preserving her late husband's writings.

Mary Shelley wrote several other novels including *Valperga*, *The Fortunes of Perkin Warbeck*, *Lodore*, *The Last Man*, and many more. Her work promoted a sense of wonder, self-reflection, and imagination. The dynamic between creature and creator in *Frankenstein* explored themes of nature, morality, and the consequences of power. The monster she created in *Frankenstein* lives on in many forms and has inspired numerous iterations in science fiction and horror.

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